

No. 17.  
Lord Glenelg to  
Sir J. Franklin,  
11 January 1839.

Enclosure.

intentions, and yet that with all their pains they entirely failed to make such selections as would satisfy the expectations held in the colonies. The fact perhaps is, that the very circumstance of a young woman's being prepared to quit the country alone, and separated from all her friends, is in itself, though I should be very sorry to say a conclusive objection, yet an occasion of additional difficulty in obtaining a perfect assurance of the respectability and correct views of the party. The end was, that the operations of the Committee became decidedly unpopular, both in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, and that it was determined to have recourse, instead, to a general emigration carried on in families, which I am happy to say, has as yet been conducted without any instance of those complaints as to character that used to be so frequent.

To send out the women in smaller parties might doubtless mitigate some evils attendant on their conveyance in bodies large enough to fill entire ships; but it would deprive them of the advantage of having a superintendent of their own on board, responsible for nothing else than their conduct and welfare. It would seem very doubtful how far the demands on the time of a commander of a ship could allow of his supplying this defect, and exercising the watchfulness desirable over such a description of emigrants. And advertent to the competition in London, I apprehend that it would hardly be practicable for any public department, without exciting great jealousies and complaints, to undertake to make a selection among the vessels of different ship-owners, on the principle of choosing those of which the masters' characters were most deserving.

It is to be observed also, that if the single women were to be sent in sufficient quantities to produce any sensible effect on the proportion of the sexes in the colony, however reduced might be the numbers embarked in each vessel, the difficulties of selection would remain where they were. There would likewise be the same risk as before of the bad effects, even on those whose conduct had been previously good, of removing them from the restraint of the presence of those relatives and friends amongst whom their character had been earned. The experiment has been tried already, and failed. It was for that reason determined that any infusion of a greater proportion of single women into the colonies could only take place as part of a larger system of emigration, consisting chiefly of families. But in the case of Van Diemen's Land it has been shown on sufficient grounds that there is no field for such larger emigration. I fear that the inference is, that there is no method of satisfactorily supplying, through a public agency, the want which is felt of unmarried females of good character.

I have not reported this result without pausing to make inquiries which strongly confirm me in the extreme difficulty of making extensive selections, that can be relied on, of unmarried female emigrants of unexceptionable character. On the other hand, if only a few are to go, whom accident may enable us to know to be truly deserving, the effect becomes so small as to cease to be a public object.

With regard to emigrants going out on bounty, to which subject Sir John Franklin alludes at the end of his despatch, I have the honour to state that the agents for emigration at the several ports of the United Kingdom would always be ready to give their best assistance at the embarkation of such persons, or in the choice of opportunities for them, which assistance indeed it is their duty to render to all persons of the industrious classes possessed of the means, from whatever source derived, of defraying their passage to the colonies.

I have, &c.  
T. F. Elliot.

—No. 18.—

(No. 340.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Glenelg to Lieutenant Governor  
Sir John Franklin.

No. 18.

Lord Glenelg to  
Sir J. Franklin,  
13 August 1838.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 August 1838.

I TRANSMIT, for your information and guidance, the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Governor of New South Wales, instructing him to raise the minimum price of Crown lands in that colony from 5s. to 12s. per acre.

As the general principle on which I have sanctioned this measure is applicable to both colonies, notwithstanding some points of local difference, and as it is desirable that an uniformity of system in regard to the disposal of the Crown lands should be observed in both, you will consider the instructions contained in that despatch as addressed to yourself.

You will perceive by the enclosed papers, which have been recently printed, for the information of officers and others proposing to settle in the Australian colonies, that no minimum price is stated, but that the lands are to be disposed of at an upset price fixed by the Government.

I am, &c.  
(signed) Glenelg.

Despatch to  
Sir George Gipps,  
9 August 1838,  
No. 176 (No. 6.  
of this Paper),  
page 39.